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He said that, so far as Central and North Travancore were concerned, the maintenance of village roads might be stopped altogether, and the funds thereby saved sanctioned periodically and utilised in thoroughly doing up those roads.

(3) The preparation of revised and supplemental estimates became an ordinary occurrence in the case of every work. He suggested the desirability of insisting on the original estimates being *carefully* prepared, so as to dispense with the supplemental estimates as far as possible.

(4) He then mentioned the instances of the flood-gate over the Arthutty canal, the channel taking off the water of the Vaikom temple tank to the backwater, and the Thottapalli lock, as being works done by the Public Works Department without the request of the people, and he added that they had all turned out to be useless works. He strongly urged the necessity for consulting local conditions before such works were undertaken.

(5) In sanctioning the budget of expenditure, fuller details of the roads to be maintained should be shown. The lengths of the roads, from what mile to what mile, &c. were informations not given in the detailed list of roads now published.

(6) There was no professional officer in the Huzur to scrutinise the Public Works Budget and estimates. It would be a great advantage to have one such officer in the Secretariat.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

65. The necessity for providing more roads and tanks, in the interests of agriculture, in South Travancore.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, Nominated) said that the results of the irrigation scheme in South Travancore were by no means commensurate with the outlay and the expectations of the people and yet they had a mania for converting all garden lands within the area commanded by the Kodayar Project into wet lands. The Member feared that the conversion of dry lands into wet, at the present rate, would turn out to be a great failure, unless the Government most assiduously safeguarded the interests of the people by providing several facilities, the most important of which was the opening of roads wherever extensive tracts of land were brought under wet cultivation. He referred with gratification to the fact that the Public Works authorities were now taking steps to open all the necessary roads in the lands commanded by the Erattakara Kal and the Thovala Channel, the two blocks where such roads were most needed.

The Member next said that the experience of the ryots went to show that the paddy lands attached to irrigation tanks were in a more advantageous position than those watered directly from the channels. With the opening of the Erattakara Kal, the uncertainty as to the adequacy of the water in the Kodayar Reservoir would, if at all, be augmented. At all events he said that it was very necessary that all the existing irrigation tanks should be retained and filled with water from the Reservoir whenever possible. He also suggested that new tanks should be provided in the large areas to

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be converted into wet lands, if necessary even by getting a contribution from the ryots. The Kodayar works, he observed, were revolutionising South Travancore and beginning to cause social changes of a far-reaching nature. Lest therefore the great good which the Government had done should become a source of evil, he said, the facilities he pleaded for were imperative and required the serious consideration of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

66. The necessity for providing against the submergence of paddy fields by the overflow of the Pamburivoikal.

Mr. P. S. Maruthanayagom Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) said that the Pamburivoikal was useful for the drainage of a vast area of about 2,000 kottahs of paddy lands. The excess water in those *yelas* had to be drained by means of the kal. The bed of the kal was now 5 feet above the surface level of the adjoining fields. Heavy rains in the neighbouring hill slopes would submerge the fields on both sides of the kal. Many breaches on the sides of the kal occurred annually to the detriment of the cultivators. The Government were also spending annually a good sum on account of those breaches. The Member therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to do the necessary works to prevent the submergence of the paddy fields by the overflow of the kal and that, till then, the tax on the lands might be ordered to be remitted whenever cultivation failed on account of such submergence.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer's estimate for the construction of an under-tunnel to carry away the excess water is being awaited. He is being asked to expedite it.

67. The desirability of improving certain tanks and canals in the Neyyattinkara taluk.

Mr. Kanakku Aiyappan Narayanan (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) said that the people of the taluk were put to much difficulty for want of a free supply of water. The land revenue of the taluk at the recent settlement had nearly trebled and yet the amount spent for the improvement of the irrigation sources in the taluk was nominal. He observed that the best method of supplying water to the taluk was by the opening of the Right Bank Channel; but the Government would not perhaps consider the question before the Left Bank Channel was completed. Another method was by diverting the water of the Neyyar river by the construction of a dam. The scheme might not be very easy but it deserved an investigation through the Chief Engineer. Both the methods above suggested would take time for their realisation. He therefore requested that certain improvements to the Ariyacheri *chira* and the Vandy *chira*, irrigating the paddy lands in the Parassala, Kolla, Kulathur and Chengal *pakuthies*, and the canals and tanks watering the *yelas* in the Kottukal *pakuthi*, should be immediately ordered to be effected. They were all major works under the Irrigation Regulation, but the Government had done nothing in connection with them for the last 25 or 30 years. In doing the improvement works, the portions of the *chiras* and canals registered as *puduvals* in the names of private persons should be ordered to be restored and the full capacity of the tanks and canals maintained in the interests of the ryots.

In regard to the other tanks in the taluk used for irrigation purposes and which came under minor works, the

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